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# Garter aide: Khomeini has cancer

By LARS-ERIK NELSON

Washington (News Bureau)—White House aide Frank Moore was quoted today as saying that Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "has cancer of the colon" and is "not going to last long," but United States intelligence analysts quickly denied the diagnosis.

Moore, head of the White House congressional liaison staff, made his statement in an interview with editors of the Shreveport (La.) Journal.

But officials in Washington said Moore was basing his remark on an unevaluated intelligence report that came, in part, from a French television crew. Just a week ago, one official said, the Central Intelligence Agency's "ghoul squad"—a group of doctors who diagnose foreign leaders at long

## U.S. intelligence denies the report

range—concluded that Khomeini, 80, did not have cancer of any kind.

"You'd be pleasantly surprised at how many things are wrong with him," one official said. "But cancer ain't among them. The analysis ruled out cancer of the colon, of the prostate and of the intestine—which covers all of the rumors we've heard in recent months."

"He could die at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow,

but we have no indication that he will," the official said.

Moore, one official said, disclosed intelligence that he should not have seen and that had not been verified. "He's talking about a raw report that flies in the face of a polished intelligence assessment to the opposite," the official said.

Carter administration officials dread the thought that Khomeini might die soon, believing that his death would produce "unimaginable chaos" in Iran, one official said.

Khomeini is believed to be the only Iranian official who could assure the release of the 52 American hostages, even if the parliament votes to free them.